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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, through whom we find liberty and peace, lead us in Your righteousness and make the way straight before our lawmakers. As they grapple with complex issues and feel the need for guidance, lead them to the decisions that will best glorify You. Looking to You to guide them, may they not be overwhelmed, remembering that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You.

May Your good blessings continue to be with us, and may we, in response to Your abiding love, ever seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 8, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, there will be 1 hour of morning business, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the America Invents Act. There will be four rollcall votes starting about 4 p.m. That time could move a little bit but not much. We are doing that in order to complete action on this patent bill that is so important for the country. It will be the first revision of this law in more than six decades.

Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber about 6:30 this evening to proceed as a body to the House for the joint session with President Obama. When we return this evening, there will be an additional rollcall vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 25, which is a joint resolution of disapproval regarding the debt limit increase. As I indicated to everyone last night, if the motion to proceed prevails, we will be back tomorrow to complete that work, and that could take as much as 10 hours tomorrow. If the motion to proceed fails, then we will have other things to do tomorrow but there will be no votes.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES 26

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S.J. Res. 26 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 26) expressing the sense of Congress that Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner no longer holds the confidence of Congress or of the people of the United States.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

### JOBS AGENDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, tonight, before a joint session of Congress, President Obama will address the Nation on the single most important issue facing our country: the unemployment crisis we have before us. I look forward to hearing the specifics of his plan. I have spoken to him, and I have a pretty good idea of what he is going to talk about.

I support his goal to create good jobs for the 14 million people who have no jobs. This is a time of dark economic times, and it is important that we do this. I applaud the commonsense, bipartisan approach the President will unveil tonight to invest in badly needed infrastructure and to cut taxes for working families and small businesses to spur job creation.

These are ideas around which Members of both parties should rally. Republicans have always supported tax cuts. They have done it in the past, and they agree we must bring America's infrastructure up to 21st-century standards. I hope that in fact is the case. But

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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